MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: In 1096, medicines to the value of Rs. 83,392-15-14 were purchased from Europe and of Rs. 1,13,366-14-15 (including Rs. 24,467-21-4, the value of the quinine received from the Madras Cinchona Department) from India.

The officer in charge of the medical stores has certified to the quality of the drugs purchased locally.

ADMISSION OF ALL CLASSES TO THE TRIVANDRUM RAILWAY SATROM.

52. MR. N. KUMARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Trivandrum Railway Satrom is open to all classes of His Highness' subjects;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, the ground on which this satrom is reserved for a few classes;

(*c*) whether its maintenance is charged to public revenues and, if so, what is the amount spent on it; and

(*d*) if the satrom cannot be thrown open to all classes, whether the Government will take up the question of providing another satrom near by for all classes?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) & (*b*) The Railway Satrom at Trivandrum has not been constructed at Government cost and it is open to caste Hindus only.

(*c*) The maintenance of the satrom is charged to Panivagai.

(*d*) The matter will be considered.

JAGGERY ARRACK MANUFACTURED IN THE NAGERCOIL DISTILLERY.

53. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the jaggery arrack manufactured in the Nagercoil Distillery was ever subjected to chemical analysis and, if so, with what results?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: This was subjected to chemical analysis and was found to contain no deleterious matter.

ALLEPPEY-SHERTALLAI CANAL.

54. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the following particulars concerning the Alleppey-Shertallai canal:

(1) the number of miles of canal opened at each end;

(2) the cost incurred in opening them;

(3) the cost estimated at the outset for opening the whole canal;

(4) the cost now estimated for opening the remaining portion;

(5) the number of years required for completing the work;

(6) the estimated cost of maintenance per mile;

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(7) whether the opinion of the majority of Engineers and Chief Engineers in the State was for or against the canal scheme;

(8) what the opinion of the Special Officer deputed to investigate the canal scheme was;

(9) if the opinion of the Engineers and the Special Officer was not favourable to the opening of the canal, what the reasons for the Government to discard their opinion were; and

(10) why the canal scheme was suspended for a time and what the reasons that have now induced the Government to take up the scheme again are?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (1) Two miles at the Alleppey end and one mile at the Shertallai end.

(2) Rs. 3,32,873.

(3) Rs. 5,11,670 for earth work and land compensation, excluding masonry works.

(4) The cost is roughly estimated at Rs. 9,00,000, excluding provision for roads, fencing, etc.

(5) This will depend on the amount of money sanctioned each year.

(6) Nearly Rs. 1,000.

(7) The opinion of the majority of Engineering Officers is in favour of the work.

(8) No Special Officer was deputed by Government.

(9) This question does not call for an answer in view of the answer to parts (7) and (8).

(10) The work was suspended for a time as land compensation was reported to be heavy, as the original estimate was found to be inadequate and as the allotments to the P. W. D, were reduced during war time. In view of the importance of the work, it has been resumed.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: With reference to the answer to part (4), will the Government be pleased to state what is the cost of roads, fencing and bridges?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: I am not sure whether an estimate has been prepared for the construction of roads, fencing and bridges. I must have notice of the question.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: With reference to the answer to part (5), will the Government be pleased to state what amount of money the Government will be able to sanction each year for the work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: It is not possible to say in advance what amount of money Government will be in a position to sanction each year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: May I have a rough idea as to the number of years it would take to complete the work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: It is difficult to say that now. It depends upon the financial position of Government and other considerations.

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MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: With reference to the answer to part (8), will the Government be pleased to state for what purpose Mr. O. S. Ramaswami Aiyar was deputed to Shertallai?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Government did not depute Mr. O. S. Ramaswami Aiyar to Shertallai.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Then, did he go on his own account?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Probably, the Chief Engineer might have deputed him.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: That is only a surmise. Is it a fact that the Chief Engineer deputed him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: I am not sure whether the Chief Engineer deputed him. All that I know for certain is that the Government did not depute him.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Can it not be ascertained whether the Chief Engineer deputed Mr. O. S. Ramaswami Aiyar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Yes, it may be ascertained.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: When shall I be able to know whether Mr. O. S. Ramaswami Aiyar was deputed by the Chief Engineer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The information will be given as soon as a reply is received from the Chief Engineer.

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MR. NATESA AIYAR, MARAMAT ENGINEER.

55. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars—

(*a*) the date of appointment of Mr. Natesa Aiyar as Maramat Engineer;

(*b*) the number of appointments made by him since that date till now and the dates of those appointments;

(*c*) how many of these appointments are permanent and how many temporary;

(*d*) from what castes the appointments were made and how many from each caste; and

(*e*) the number of applicants for each post with the names of their caste and other particulars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar was appointed Maramat Engineer on the 6th June, 1921.

(*b*) to (*e*) A statement§ giving the particulars called for by the member is placed on the table.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I may say that, if any member wants any supplementary information, he may write to the Government for such information and the Government will be glad to obtain and give it to him, if it could be given without detriment to public interests.

§ *Vide* Appendix III—page 654.

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